

May/June 15, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

Visit our Website



Some of you have asked to be able to read all the articles in their entirety in one place. On our webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under the Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter you can now find each month's articles all together. Click [here](#) to go directly there.



VFW AUXILIARY
Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes®

MEMO

DATE: May 6, 2026

TO: National Line Officers National District Council Members
Past National Presidents Department Presidents
Department Secretaries

FROM: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

Recently, we have observed a significant increase in information being posted on publicly accessible websites and social media platforms that contain personal data, including individuals' signatures. If members are not required to log in or sign in to access the content, it should be considered publicly accessible.

In light of this, we respectfully request that you refrain from posting screenshots or posting ANY official correspondence from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters in its entirety on public platforms, including VFW Auxiliary websites and social media channels (such as Facebook, Instagram, etc.). If information must be shared, please extract only the relevant portions and place them into a new document, ensuring that all personal information is fully redacted. This includes, but is not limited to, signatures, phone numbers, email addresses, and physical addresses.

The public distribution of unredacted documents, particularly those containing signatures, may pose a security risk and may expose individuals to fraud or identity theft. This risk is comparable to sharing images of checks that display banking information.

Additionally, please do not publicly post the mailing addresses of VFW Auxiliary National Line Officers, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents, or other Auxiliary officers and members, particularly those recovering from illness or surgery. Such information is intended for internal use only. Public dissemination could place these individuals at risk, especially if their homes are unattended during extended recovery periods.

We ask for your continued diligence in safeguarding the privacy and security of our members by ensuring that all personal information is omitted before sharing any materials publicly. Thank you for your cooperation and for your ongoing commitment to protecting the members and the integrity of our organization. Please share this information with your members.

AP: cb



CASINO NIGHT

Games - Fun - Prizes

**POKER - BLACK JACK - CRAPS -
ROULETTE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13
8 - 11PM**

**LOEWS VENTANA CANYON RESORT
VENTANA ROOM**

**ADVANCED TICKET PURCHASE - \$40
(gets you more chips to play)
AT THE DOOR PURCHASE - \$45**

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/casino-night-at-the-convention>




Americanism Heather Lyn

As we close out this year, my heart is full of pride and gratitude for the incredible work accomplished by all our

Auxiliaries. Your dedication, creativity, and tireless efforts have truly embodied the spirit of Americanism—educating, honoring, and inspiring our communities.

One of the most humbling moments for me this year was the honor of participating in the 13 Folds Ceremony at our conference. Standing alongside so many who share a deep respect for our flag and the values it represents was an experience I will carry with me always.

Auxiliary Outreach Amy Bennett

#AuxiliaryOutreach and [#az2526outreach](#) or
[#az2526AuxiliaryOutreach](#)



A Note of Thanks from your Auxiliary Outreach Program Chair – Amy Bennett

As we close the 2025–2026 Auxiliary Outreach program year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to every Auxiliary across Arizona. Your dedication, creativity, and willingness to step forward — not for recognition, but for partnership — have made this year extraordinary. Whether you were packing backpacks, supporting animal shelters, assisting at community fairs, helping seniors celebrate holidays, or simply showing up with a smile and a willingness to serve, you demonstrated what it truly means to *volunteer with* our communities.

I had the privilege of watching your work unfold month after month with a total of 39 projects highlighted — through your 12 National hashtags, your photos, your stories, and 8 National Citation submissions. Each one was a reminder of how powerful we are when we work together. You showed Arizona that the VFW Auxiliary is not just present, but engaged, compassionate, and ready to lift others up. 46 of the 48 Auxiliaries reported participation in this program on their PARs!

Thank you for embracing the mission, for thinking outside the box, for partnering boldly, and for shining your light wherever it was needed. You made this year meaningful, memorable, and full of heart.

And as always — **You’ve Got a Friend in Me**. Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as your Auxiliary Outreach Program Chair.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Buddy Poppy/National Home Peggy Welch

April was a busy month with elections and installation of new officers. Are you wearing your Buddy Poppies to meetings and events? Make it a fashion statement. Share a little Buddy Poppy information with your

members and keep the excitement alive!

This year your Auxiliaries have participated in Buddy Poppy and National Home events, both big and small. All have been important and show your commitment to the message we have to share. You were challenged to be creative and to “Flood Arizona with Poppies.” Through feedback from all of you

it is evident that your efforts were impactful. From individuals who said “I had no idea how important the Buddy Poppy is” to individuals who remembered seeing the Poppies as children, and individuals who had tears in their eyes when they mentioned their veterans. MIT was a great opportunity for you to share your ideas and learn about the program from me and your peers. Our conversations energized me throughout the year.

Next on the agenda: the Buddy Poppy Display contest.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
“BUDDY” ® POPPY PROGRAM**

NATIONAL CONVENTION BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

These guidelines have been designed to place emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is recommended that Department (State) contests rule be established in a like form.

RULES

(1) Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:

- CATEGORY 1.** **Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign** (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)
- (a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy.
 - (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.
- CATEGORY 2.** **Memorial or Inspirational Displays** (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)
- (a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
 - (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.
- CATEGORY 3.** **Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies** (Post Home displays, table center-pieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)
- (a) Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
 - (b) At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

(2) Buddy Poppy display entries must be constructed using Buddy Poppies purchased through the VFW Store. Authorized styles include the legacy and tin tab poppies.

(3) Departments are authorized one per category. The only displays that will be judged will be the displays provided on a list by Department to National Headquarters Programs office by 1 July 2026 with their completed entry form. Any displays brought to convention that are not on the list will not be judged.

- (4) The National Programs Staff will have no responsibility in setting up, taking down or returning displays. Power will only be provided for displays that have provided prior notice for need by 1 July 2026.
- (5) Displays shall be set up in space provided in the convention facility. Prior to setting up the display, the responsible person must check in with the Buddy Poppy desk and verify contact information on their entry form. (Please be advised, all displays must be removed by noon on **Tuesday, July 28th**, or it will be disposed of by convention center personnel.)
- (6) Displays may or may not be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges, should be written in black ink.
- (7) Post name, number, city or state (including the shape of your state) may not be visible on the displays. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- (8) NOTE: Any use of non-VFW trademarks or copyrighted material on your display must have prior approval from the trademark or copyright holder. These include, but are not limited to, names, logos, audio/visual graphics, images and/or props. The VFW and Buddy Poppy logo and name is authorized but use of any outside organization trademark or copyrighted material and/or logos must have prior approval through their respective organization.

JUDGING

Judging of displays will be based on effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of poppies used. Judging will be completed Monday evening and the winning displays will have the appropriate ribbons placed on the display on Tuesday morning.

PRIZES

Awards to the first, second, and third place winners in each of the three categories will be mailed to the winning Department's Adjutant after convention.

NOTE

The Department Adjutant will notify the Programs office via email at mspencer@vfw.org, in writing, by **July 1, 2025** of the Posts/ Auxiliaries that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow us the time necessary to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention.

Please be advised, the Programs Staff cannot guarantee against theft of personal items placed on displays. The exhibit hall is secured at night and monitored by security guards; however, they monitor a large area and are not assigned to one specific area. We strongly discourage using items of sentimental value, items of value or items considered to be irreplaceable on Buddy Poppy displays.

Thank you and good luck!

(Revised 5/8/26)

Historian/Media Paulette Marshall

My goodness where did this year go. I have been very blessed to be your Media relations chair and historian.

Just seeing the amazing things that you all have done makes me very proud to be a part of the Department of Arizona. Most of you have used your hashtags very well and I've been able to see what you've done.



To read the rest of the article click [here](#)



Hospital Amy Timbes

Here we are already in May. 250 years to celebrate because of our veterans.

Maybe if they allow me to continue in this role I will someday get it right. I do believe I have been remiss in communicating with you. I need to share thoughts with you more often and definitely use Facebook and email more effectively. I **NEED** to know what I can do to make you feel more comfortable in sharing your activities. I even missed the boat on using the hashtag enough.

This year let's blow up Facebook with what we do. Post on your post and auxiliary website and also #. I will follow everybody who lets me. Tag me. I want to **NEED** massive storage for your pursuits. The reason people go to church is to be supported in their faith. The same idea can help us all remain motivated. Allow me to share your success with others. If you do something special fill out a program award entry then and there. Submit multiples. And think outside the box. A wish list has things but smiles are earned through action. Research the Veterans Legacy program.

To read the rest of the article click [here](#)

Legislative Becky Baldwin

As we close out this program year, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work you have done as Legislative Leaders across Arizona.

This year was not about one event or one effort—it was about **consistent, intentional advocacy**. And because of that, Arizona made an impact.



Here's what you accomplished this year:

- **Strengthened Action Corps Weekly engagement**

You helped grow participation and ensured our members stayed informed and ready to respond to Calls to Action.

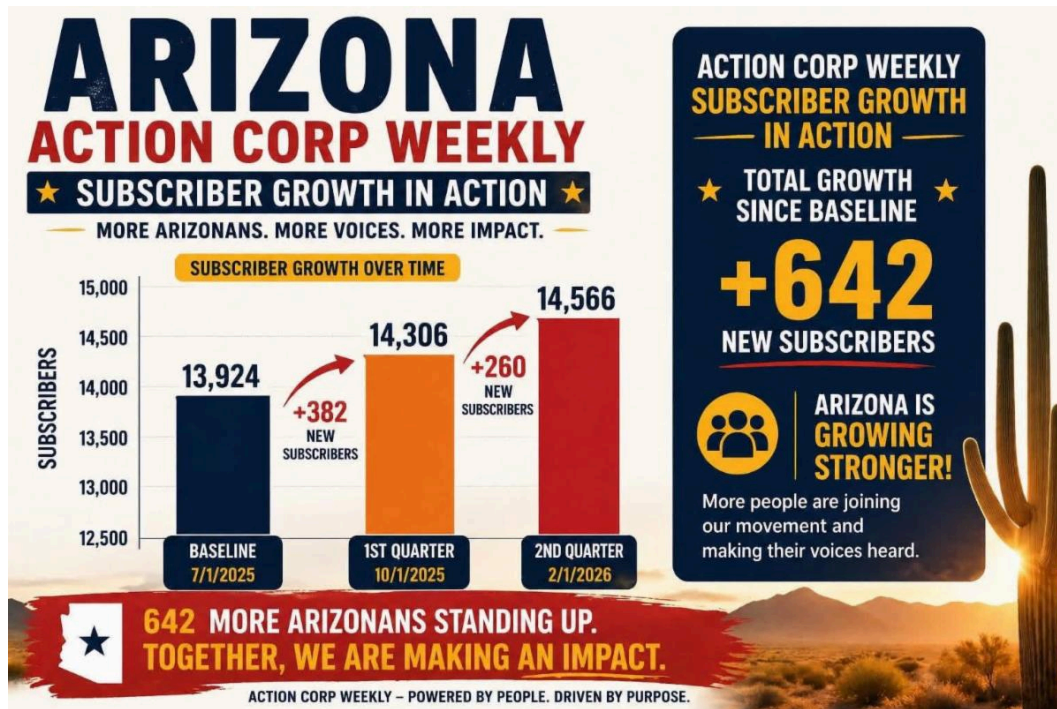
- **Amplified Voices of Service**

You shared real stories from veterans and their families—putting faces and experiences behind the legislation we support.

- **Supported VFW Legislative Priorities**

You stayed informed, communicated key issues, and helped keep veteran-focused legislation at the forefront.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Membership Crystal McCarthy

Convention Countdown! Let's Finish This Strong!

Department Convention is just around the corner —June 11–13, 2026—and I cannot wait to celebrate **YOU**. I'll be bringing even more 100% banners and 100%+ streamers to recognize the hard work happening across our auxiliaries. You've earned it.

And let's talk numbers for a second... We are currently sitting at **101.433%** current and **103.33%** paid.

Wowie Wow!!!

That doesn't happen by accident. That's dedication. That's passion. That's **YOU** showing up all year long.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Scholarship Irene Nowacki

What a wonderful year it has been. We had a nice turn out for the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarships both 2-D and 3-D**. I am very excited to be able to announce the winners in these contests. It was not an easy job to judge such amazing art. The entries were all very detailed and moving.



Make sure that you are at Department Convention in June to find out who the first-place winners are that will have their piece showcased at National and hopefully bring home the big win!

Please make sure that you take the time to see all the art that has been entered in all the Auxiliary art contests including Illustrating America. These youth are our future. Let's celebrate their accomplishments. They truly are amazing.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Veterans and Family Support Ray Williams

WE ARE THE VFW AUXILIARY

Brothers and Sisters,

I believe people should join the VFW Auxiliary to continue to expand the presence of the VFW and serve this organization with dedication. If you have not taken the member obligation, I encourage you to request your Auxiliary

President to have members to participate in the member obligation at your next meeting with your new candidates. The words that has always stands out to me is the Junior Vice-President: **“As a member of this Auxiliary, we shall expect you to do your share, for ours is a great work, lasting throughout life, for so long as there are veterans, so long will our work continue. To care for the members in distress and for those who depend upon them is part of the work of this organization—and when death shall lay his hand on any Post or Auxiliary member, it is our duty to see that they are buried in the proper manner and with the honor due them.”**

I need to thank each and every member who has come to the aid of a veteran, veteran family and/or a member. You are fulfilling your obligation and mission of this great organization. While many of our programs serve specific needs, Veterans & Family Support touches every life connected to our veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. It is a program rooted in compassion, awareness, and action. It is the core of our being.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Youth JaNice Robertson

This year has come to an end. I would be very grateful for the responses and reports received from the Auxiliaries. Six (6) Auxiliaries sent the National Citation Award form with just beautiful projects they have done with Youth in their area. Only one could be chosen!



Illustrating America entries, for each age group category, have been sent to the National Organization. Twenty entries, in all were received, 3 of those came from ONE Charter School in Quartzite, they had 18 entries. Auxiliary 769 has embraced this charter school and it is really paying off! A Community member, who has 3 grandchildren, loving the positivity the VFW Auxiliary Programs have to share, invited Auxiliary 769 into the school to speak about art, patriotism and embrace citizenship in their community.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in Arizona | 326 E. Burrows St. | Tucson, AZ 85704 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!